

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Producers encouraged to explore disaster relief programs**

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is encouraging producers to explore four new disaster programs for livestock and crop losses due to natural disasters.

These programs were recently announced by the United States Department of Agriculture. Two programs, the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), were scheduled to begin in September. A third program, the Crop Disaster Program (CDP), is scheduled to begin in October. The start date for the fourth program, the Dairy Disaster Assistance Program (DDAP), has not yet been determined.

Eligible producers may apply for the Livestock Compensation Program to receive compensation for feed losses incurred between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007. The intent of the Livestock Indemnity Program is to compensate producers for livestock losses between the same dates as the LCP due to natural disasters. The purpose of the Crop Disaster Program is to help farmers suffering from crop losses in 2005, 2006 or before February 28, 2007. A producer may apply for assistance from more than one of the four programs, but may only make application for one of the three calendar years.

Primary eligibility for producers is dependent upon Secretarial and Presidential Designation of counties due to natural disasters. The disaster designation must be requested by the County Commissioners within ninety days of the natural disaster.

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture recommends producers take action and contact their local county commissioners as soon as a disaster occurs. Disasters may include drought, blizzards, fire or floods. County Commissioners, the Governor, Congressional Delegates, governmental agencies and others need to be made aware of the severity of these disasters by agricultural producers voicing their individual situations and concerns. If no concerns are heard, a secretarial or presidential designation for assistance may not occur.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to call their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office regarding the disaster assistance programs to set up an appointment to learn of their eligibility. Details of the programs specific to Wyoming's counties can be explained by Farm Service Agency personnel. The Wyoming State FSA office can be reached by calling (307) 261-5231. Official sign-up will not begin until the software and details are distributed to all FSA offices. More information about these programs is available on the Farm Service Agency website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>; click on "Disaster Assistance Programs", then on "Fact Sheet". The U.S. Department of Agriculture is developing individual fact sheets about these programs that will be posted online.

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